

encourages persons with disabilities to live in a setting of maximum independence—financially and socially—rather than being relegated to functioning in institutional settings subsidized with public funds.

This bill will help many persons with disabilities continue to have a quality life and will give peace of mind to thousands of Federal retirees, who have dependents with disabilities.

The following are key components of the bill:

The bill amends title 5 to provide that the reduction in additional optional life insurance for Federal retirees shall not apply if the beneficiary is permanently disabled;

The retiree must have designated the person with the disability as the beneficiary prior to retirement;

The payment received can only be used for the care and support of the beneficiary;

The disability of the beneficiary must be one that is expected to last permanently and that would prevent an individual from fully providing for himself/herself;

The retiree is responsible for the full premium;

A payment to the beneficiary will be reduced by the amount of any premiums not paid due to current law;

The Office of Personnel Management will have 1 year from the date of enactment to issue regulations; and

An individual who retired 50 months prior to the enactment of the law can have the additional optional life insurance reinstated at the full percentage.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW J. HAYES

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to a gentleman who provided great service to his family, his community, and his country. I was greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Matthew J. Hayes, a constituent of my congressional district and someone for whom I had a great deal of admiration.

Matt Hayes began his public-service career with the Delaware County government in 1977 when he became director of budget management. His outstanding abilities were recognized 2 years later when he was appointed executive director of Delaware County, a post he held for 13 years. I worked closely with Matt in my capacity as chairman of the Delaware County Council. No public servant brought more vigor to a position than Matt, nor did anyone more capably protect the interests of taxpayers.

In 1992, Matt became chief executive officer of the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority. Again, he approached his position with commitment and determination. His knowledge and negotiating skills helped save the county millions of dollars.

Matt was a certified public accountant and a graduate of Villanova University, where he

also served as an adjunct professor of accounting for 8 years. Before joining county government, he had 20 years experience in the private sector in accounting and management, including international financing with a major accounting firm.

Matt was also dedicated to serving his community. He served as treasurer of the Haverford Township Republican Party and was a member of the Haverford Township Parks and Recreation Board. He also served on the finance committee of St. Denis Roman Catholic Church, his home parish in Havertown. He was a board member of the Ardmore Manor Civic Association and a member of the Merwood Civic Association. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

Matt was devoted to his family. He cared deeply about his wife, Marie Purcell Hayes; his children, Matthew, Marie, James, William, and Joseph; and his three grandchildren. I offer my condolences to each to them. Matt will be greatly missed by all of us.

HONG REFUGEES OF THAILAND

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit for the record a letter I have sent to Secretary of State Christopher on behalf of the Hmong refugees in Thailand. Incidents of human rights abuses, forced repatriation, and retaliation upon their return to Laos continue to be reported. The Hmong community in Rhode Island remains very concerned about this situation, and I believe it is time we work to resolve it. I will be certain to submit for the record any response I receive from the State Department on this urgent matter:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 28, 1995.
Secretary WARREN CHRISTOPHER,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I write to express my concern about the status of Hmong combat veterans and refugees in Thailand.

You may recall that I wrote last year regarding the plight of the Hmong refugees. At that time, I was assured that additional resources had been committed to UNHCR to provide assistance to and monitor the safety of Hmong refugees, and that the State Department was working with the Thai government to resolve the question of repatriation to non-communist third countries. Thus, I have supported efforts to maintain a fair and responsible U.S. refugee policy that would prevent further persecution of Hmong refugees.

However, I am distressed that this situation has not yet been resolved. The Hmong people were our loyal allies and have been a great asset to our nation. Yet, thousands of Hmong remain in Thailand in refugee camps and continue to be persecuted because of their relationship with the U.S. While I recognize the difficulties in administering a refugee program, cases of forced repatriation, disappearances, and human rights abuses continue to be reported.

I would sincerely appreciate an update on the current status of the Hmong refugees.

Specifically, I would like to know: what progress has been made to resettle the remaining Hmong combat veterans and refugees in safe, third countries; what efforts are being made to assist and monitor the safety and welfare of those refugees who have been voluntarily repatriated; have all means of forced repatriation ceased; are there currently immigration slots available for these refugees to come to the United States; is the Thai government cooperating with these efforts; and if not, what action will the State Department take to help the remaining Hmong refugees and ensure that they are not forcibly repatriated?

This issue is of great importance to the Hmong community in Rhode Island. Thank you in advance for your attention to this urgent issue, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

JACK REED,
Member of Congress.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
k you in advance for your attention to this urgent issue, and I

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have this opportunity to commend the South Side's Milwaukee Christian Center Neighborhood Improvement Project [NIP] on its 20th anniversary.

The South Side's NIP was founded in 1975 as a collaboration of South Side agencies seeking to provide summer jobs for youth under a community development block grant. The organization was formed to harness the considerable energy of area youth in an endeavor that would teach them valuable skills and contribute to the surrounding community.

In 1994, the South Side NIP employed 44 young adults in housing rehabilitation projects. Participants remove unsightly graffiti, paint, provide carpentry services, and roof homes for low-income homeowners. South Side neighborhoods receive a facelift, while youth gain a work ethic and marketable skills.

Sixty-seven homes benefited from no-cost renovations last year. Meanwhile, the 38 young offenders served their community service sentences as graffiti removal team members, cleaning up at over 2,300 dwellings throughout the year.

Young people learn about the real work world through the NIP. They work on a time-clock and are responsible for their tools. Some programs operate based on piecework, which rewards higher productivity with higher pay. Many summer program participants have moved up through the program to become team supervisors. Mentors are drawn from local community centers to provide technical expertise and role models for the youth.

Over the past two decades, the South Side NIP has provided invaluable services to local residents. It truly represents an exemplary investment of CDBG funds. The program benefits not only participants, but also homeowners and neighborhoods. I am pleased to congratulate the Milwaukee Christian Center Neighborhood Improvement Project on its 20th anniversary and wish it continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical emergency, I was not present for rollcall vote Nos. 822 and 823. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H.R. 2525 and "yes" on Senate Concurrent Resolution 33. I request unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following these rollcall votes.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KUNSTLER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to attorney William Kunstler who recently passed away. In memory of William Kunstler and in tribute to the ideals for which he fought, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this statement.

Mr. Kunstler was profoundly committed to the fundamentally American ideal of justice for all. As an attorney he fought against racism and for the legal rights of everyone from important political figures to marginal outsiders. His notable achievements included his work with Dr. Martin Luther King and his representation of Adam Clayton Powell and Stokely Carmichael.

To make the ideal of a just America a reality, Mr. Kunstler brought his considerable talents to defend unpopular and sometimes virtually unwinnable cases as a matter of principle. He took on the cases of many of the prisoners charged following the Attica Prison uprising. He took on the case of Wayne Williams, who was convicted of killing young boys in Atlanta, and Colin Ferguson, who was convicted of killing several people on the Long Island railroad. It is these cases that test our commitment to a fair and equitable justice system, and it is with these unpopular cases that William Kunstler proved the depth of his commitment to a fair justice system.

In her tribute to William Kunstler, Bernice Powell Jackson from the Civil Rights Journal noted that William Kunstler was a man who challenged our legal system to be the best and the fairest it could be. In this time of increasing attacks on the rights of the accused, we need to be inspired by Mr. Kunstler's commitment to a fair and equitable justice system. I would like to take this moment to honor his memory.

WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 15, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FUTURE WORLD FOOD SUPPLIES

The tightening of world food supplies in recent years has led many people to wonder about the long-term food outlook. Will we be facing an era of major shortages driven by world population growth that will mean sharp price increases for some and food scarcity and famine for others? Or will research advances and improved farm productivity be enough to meet the growing world needs? The long-term predictions have important implications for U.S. food and agricultural policy and for Hoosier farmers.

CURRENT SUPPLIES

In recent years, world grain supplies have tightened considerably. The world's grain harvest has not increased in any of the last five years, and since 1992 world grain consumption has exceeded production. Grain stocks carried over from one year to the next are at record lows. In the U.S., lower production, strong export demand, and reforms making farm programs more market oriented have meant that this year—for the first time since World War II—there are basically no surplus stocks in government-owned reserves. The tight supplies have led to steep price increases for wheat, rice, and corn.

LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS

Some people look at the current tight supplies and see things only getting worse. They believe that world population growth, increasingly scarce water and land resources, and the demand for better diets in developing countries will mean an era of major food scarcity. Others are optimistic. They point to advancing farm technology, unused cropland, and potential to modernize farm production in developing countries. On this view, feeding billions more around the world could easily be done.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released a major study on the outlook for world food supplies that comes down in between these two views. Looking at the next 10 years, the report sees no looming crisis in food supplies. The report expects production to grow at basically the same rate as population, so grain use per person will remain relatively unchanged. World prices for wheat and rice are expected to lag only slightly behind inflation.

Explaining the increased demand, USDA emphasized the importance of world population growth—from 5.5 billion to 6.6 billion over the next decade—as well as efforts by countries like China to improve their diets. Yet world food production is expected to keep pace, more through higher yields than expanded cropland. Crop yields, however, are expected to grow more slowly than in the past because high-yielding rice and wheat varieties have been widely adopted and no similar research advances are anticipated soon.

FOOD SHORTAGES

While the USDA report projected adequate global food supplies, it also concluded that there will be major food shortages in some parts of the world. And on that score USDA was not optimistic. Currently some 800 million people—15% of the world's population—have inadequate diets, with many of them suffering from severe malnutrition. The study projected that food aid needs will double over the next decade, even under relatively optimistic assumptions of increased food production in the developing countries. The problem of food shortages is largely financial—the inability of poorer countries to buy adequate food.

The world food situation is like a basket half empty and half full. More people are adequately fed than ever before and much more food is available than in past decades. At the same time, there are still more hun-

gry people in the world than ever before, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of total world population.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

One clear message from the long-term food supply projections is that we need to continue to support agricultural research. The U.S. agricultural research system has been a major reason for the productivity of our farmers, and continued research will be crucial in the years ahead to helping them meet the ever-growing markets for food.

Yet agricultural research faces federal budget cuts. Funding in 1996 will be below this year's level, and Congress will consider various reforms in the months ahead. We need to balance the budget, but deep cuts in agricultural research would be short-sighted.

FARM PROGRAMS

The increasing world food needs also mean that we should reform current federal farm programs to open up more farmland to production. Currently some 15 percent of U.S. cropland is being idled through federal commodity programs designed to help stabilize supplies and through Conservation Reserve programs designed to protect fragile cropland.

Reforms are currently being considered in Congress to reduce government land set-asides, allow farmers to withdraw less-sensitive land from the Conservation Reserve, and allow farmers more planting flexibility to react to world market needs. I support such efforts.

FOOD AID

We also need to improve U.S. food aid programs, since the end of World War II, the U.S. has been the world's bulwark against famine. This year we will provide \$1.3 billion in food aid—about 1/10 of 1 percent of the total federal budget. Food aid benefits not just needy people overseas but also U.S. farmers, by providing a market for their current production and by laying the groundwork for future export sales. Of the 50 largest buyers of American farm goods, 43 are countries that formerly received U.S. food aid. Former food aid recipients purchase more than \$35 billion in U.S. agricultural products each year. By helping feed the needy we also create major new markets for our exports.

But food aid programs also face budget cuts, and it is clear that we will have to do more with less. That's why recent Clinton Administration efforts to overhaul and "reinvent" food aid programs—better coordinating assistance and focusing much more on measuring and managing for results—are a step in the right direction.

CONCLUSION

Long-term projections about global food supplies and needs are very tentative, and are highly sensitive to even the smallest changes in assumptions. The latest projections are generally reassuring for those of us in the U.S., but they also indicate the need for a long-term view in our food and agricultural policies. We must continue to invest in the ability of U.S. farmers to meet the needs of global markets.

IN SUPPORT OF STRONG LOBBYING LEGISLATION

HON. MICHAEL PATRICK FLANAGAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day. Finally, after almost a half century, the House passed and sent to the President a strong lobbying disclosure bill that will